

GERMANS GAIN IN WEST, RUSSIANS IN EASTERN THEATERS

Crown Prince's Forces Take New Strong Positions in Fresh Drive at Verdun.

ISPAHAN CAPTURED BY CZAR

Austrians Defeated on Dneister By Muscovites—Kaiser's Destroyers Routed.

LONDON, March 21.—German gains on the west bank of the Meuse, a Russian sweep to the Dneister in Galicia, capture of Ispahan, Persia, by the Russians, and defeat of German destroyers off the Belgian coast marked today's war office reports.

Capture of Ispahan on Sunday is reported from Teheran today.

Vienna dispatches to Berlin admit the evacuation of Uscleza, thirty-eight miles northwest of Czernowitz, after a terrific battle with Russian troops.

Far from being exhausted, apparently, the forces of the crown prince have attempted a new drive from the north-west upon the French citadel at Verdun, and Paris admits German successes.

Occupation of the Melancourt woods in a massed assault has given the Germans strong new positions.

Berlin announces capture of those positions and have taken 2,500 prisoners and much booty.

A naval engagement off the Belgian coast is reported to the admiralty. Four British destroyers engaged three German craft in a running fight, and forced their retreat into the Zeebrugge base.

War Council Meets.
The augmented war council of the entente powers is meeting today in Paris.

The commanders-in-chief of the allied powers, together with the political leaders, have assembled to discuss plans of far-reaching importance. Out of the conference, it is hoped by the allied governments, will be born a comprehensive scheme to deliver from every front simultaneous strokes to force a decision in the conflict.

Six nations are represented in the council.

Isapahan the former metropolis of Persia, which has been taken by the Russians, lies 29 miles south of Teheran. In the seventeenth century it was one of the largest and most magnificent cities in the world. Its population at present is less than 100,000.

Dneister Position of Austrians Evacuated
BERLIN, March 21.—Austrian troops have evacuated the Uscleza bridgehead and trenches northwest, after defending the positions for six months against Russian attacks, the Austrian war office admits.

The position had been battered into a heap of ruins by heavy pounding of Russian artillery in recent fighting.

The bridgehead position lies on the south bank of the Dneister, thirty-eight miles northwest of Czernowitz, and has been the scene of desperate fighting.

Retreat Ordered.
"The Russians, in the morning, had succeeded in blasting a breach 300 yards wide," said the Austrian war office statement.

"Nevertheless, our soldiers, though attacked by eight-fold superior forces, still held their positions in spite of the losses during seven hours of the most violent infantry and artillery fire."

At 5 p. m. Colonel Planitz decided to evacuate. He totally destroyed the trench position. Small detachments, (Continued on Second Page.)

Great Entente Seen In Paris Conference
Strong Anti-German Union Expected to Result From Sessions of Allies.

PARIS, March 21.—A greater entente, bringing not only France, England, and Russia, but the smaller of their allies into complete accord, will result from the conference to be held here late this week or early next.

Military and political leaders of the allies were assembling here today in advance of the meeting. They plan to reorganize for concerted action both in a military and political way to shorten the war.

Premier Aristide Briand will preside over the deliberations. Prince Regent Alexander and Premier Pachitch of Serbia, are due to arrive in Paris today. General Cadorna, Italian commander-in-chief, is already in Paris, and will be joined shortly by General Porro, second in command.

England will be represented by Sir Douglas Haig, Premier Asquith, and others. Premier Briand, General Joffre, and one or two French cabinet members will represent France. General Glinzky will be Russia's representative, and Premier de Broeville and General Wilemans will represent Belgium.

General Cadorna visited the French front today. The Serbian prince regent was greeted enthusiastically when he arrived.

Lady Paget Greeted By Queen Marie in Bucharest
BUCHAREST, March 21.—Lady Paget accompanied by four English doctors and nurses who remained in the hospital at Uskub, Serbia, when Bulgarian troops entered the town, has arrived here from Sofia and has been received in audience by Queen Marie.

Warm Debate Marks Close of Armor Plate Plant Fight in Senate

Oliver Gives the Lie to Charge Product Sold Cheaper Abroad Than Here.

SWANSON BACKS PROJECT

Declares Tillman Measure for Government Factory Fair to Everyone Concerned.

Senator Swanson of Virginia, among others, today in the Senate championed the cause of the Government armor plate factory.

He declared the success that had attended the Government manufacture of powder, guns, mines and torpedoes fully justified the proposed plant. He asserted it would take the Government out of the grip of the armor plate trust.

Senators Oliver, Penrose, Harding and others, strongly opposed the Government project.

Senator Oliver, however, said he was authorized to say the Midvale Company would not raise the price of armor plate if the factory was established.

Senator Oliver gave the lie direct to those who have accused the armor-makers of selling armor more cheaply to foreign governments than to the United States. Only a few sales of samples at lower-than-cost prices, with the idea of getting more trade had been made, he said.

Vote Starts at 4 o'clock.
The Senate will begin voting on the bill and amendments at 4 o'clock this afternoon. The measure will be passed. Strong opposition to it exists, however, in the House.

The bill provides for more than one factory. If needed, in his speech today, Senator Swanson alluded to the possibility of taking over some of the existing private plants. He dwelt much on the extortionate prices which the government has been charged for armor plate.

Senator Swanson said: "Desirous of encouraging these plants in order to have munition plants in this country, the Government has acted toward them with the utmost generosity and liberality. Desirous of treating these concerns with the utmost consideration, the committee has authorized the Secretary of the Navy to erect or purchase an armor plant, or do both."

"If the owners of these plants desire they can sell their plants to the Government at a fair and reasonable price and sustain no loss in this respect."

"If they do not desire to sell their plants, they can, under the terms of this bill, dispose of their machinery and tools and other equipment. In the Bethlehem and Carnegie companies, through their officers, offered to sell their plants to the Government at a fair and reasonable price and sustain no loss in this respect."

Measure Just and Fair.
"Thus Mr. President, from whatever standpoint viewed the pending measure is just, fair, and reasonable. It proposes to the large profits arising from the manufacture of armor plate should remain with the Government and no longer go to private individuals."

"It proposes to have a plant where the secrets of the Government in connection with the construction of armor can be protected and used alone by this Government."

"The manufacturers of armor in their testimony clearly indicated that they are unable to manufacture armor as cheaply and economically as the Government. The bill proposes to prevent this economic waste and to permit these concerns to go into other profitable undertakings."

"It gives an opportunity to the owners of these plants to dispose of them at a fair and reasonable price to the Government. The bill will place one of the chief elements of our defense and security in the hands of the Government, where it can be safely and securely made it dependent upon the self-interest of individuals."

Would End Trust.
"The passage of this bill will mark the end of the domination of the armor plate trust that for more than six years has levied immense exactions upon the Government of the United States."

"It indicates no intention on the part of the Government to engage in private business and commerce, but its desire is to obtain its own armor in the best and most economical way and in the manner that preserves its valuable secrets and new discoveries. This bill is fair and just to the Government, fair and just to those engaged in manufacturing armor, and should be promptly passed by Congress."

"Every delay in this matter is attended with danger, and Congress should act promptly and decisively upon a matter of such vast and far-reaching importance."

Kitchin to Fight Ship Purchase Bill
Serves Notice He Will Not Support Permanent Government Operation Feature.

Announcement that he will oppose the Administration ship purchase bill in its present form was made today by House Democratic Leader Kitchin.

"I will vote against it unless they amend it to make sure that permanent Government operation of the ships is not intended," said Kitchin.

"I am not in favor of this permanent operation plan, putting the Government into the shipping business."

Kitchin's statement was a bombshell to the Administration. It showed a sharp reversal of his former attitude. After a recent conference with the President, Kitchin stated his objections to the bill might be overcome and he might vote and work for the measure's passage.

The bill was being finally drafted today by the House Merchant Marine Committee. Prospects were that the committee would not change the bill to meet Kitchin's objections.

MURDERESS SAVED FROM CHAIR IN N. C.

Mrs. Ida Ball Warren and Her Friend Killed Her Husband. Woman Was Condemned.

RALEIGH, N. C., March 21.—Governor Craig today commuted to life imprisonment the death sentence against Mrs. Ida Ball Warren and S. J. Christy for the murder of G. J. Warren.

The governor's decision ended a nation-wide protest against the death sentence imposed on Mrs. Warren for the murder of her husband. Warren was killed by Mrs. Warren and Christy so their infatuation would not be interfered with.

Mrs. Warren was to die March 21. It was indicated yesterday that no clemency would be shown Christy. That Governor Craig commuted Christy's sentence because as he was quoted yesterday, he believed both to be guilty, and because he could not show mercy to Mrs. Warren without including Christy, was believed here.

Governor Craig is preparing a formal statement in explanation.

Millions Lost in Tobacco Revenues
Alleged Conspiracy of Manufacturers Said To Be Costly to Uncle Sam.

Millions of dollars have been lost by the Government, it was stated by Treasury Department officials today, through the alleged conspiracy of tobacco manufacturers. Wholesale arrests in New York and Brooklyn are but the first step in a national campaign against alleged irregularity in the sale of tobacco.

The Internal Revenue Department is making investigation throughout the country. Evidence is being obtained from manufacturers, who, it is alleged, are not complying with revenue laws and are thereby defrauding the Government of large amounts of taxes.

Wilson Would Rush Water Power Bill
Urges Senators to Hurry Action on Best Possible Measure.

President Wilson today urged Senate leaders to "get together" upon some satisfactory water power bill that can be passed at this session.

The Shields bill, passed by the Senate, fails to meet the approval of the conservationists in the Senate and House and is described by its opponents as "favorable to the water power trust."

The President also is understood to be sympathetic with some of its provisions. He conferred with Senators Myers, Kern, James, Stokes, Swanson, Walsh and Martin on the advisability of framing another measure which would more satisfactorily cover the question. Senator Myers has already introduced another bill providing for water power legislation on public lands. The President today told the Senators of his personal ideas on water power conservation and the probably will be embodied in the new legislation.

A plan for getting through such a measure now without interfering with the progress of national defense legislation was taken up, and all spare time will be devoted to rushing it through.

Thirty Patients in Peril As Hospital Is Burned
CHESTER, S. C., March 21.—Thirty patients, several of them on operating tables, narrowly escaped death today when the S. W. Pryor Hospital was destroyed by fire with a loss of \$50,000.

RUNCIMAN TELLS OF BRITAIN'S PLANS TO THE GERMAN DOWN

Allies Purpose to Prevent Her From Ever "Raising Her Helmet" in Future.

TO COMPETE WITH AMERICA

President of British Board of Trade Declares Rivalry Will Be Friendly.

By WILBUR S. FORREST.

LONDON, March 21.—Germany will never again "raise her helmet" in a world engaged in peaceful pursuits, President Walter Runciman, of the board of trade, declared today, officially outlining for the first time the allies' commercial plans after the war.

England does not contemplate a throttling that will leave the German people crushed in poverty, unable to rise again, he said.

"But peaceful preparations as a means to a military end will never again be tolerated by England, France, Russia, and Italy," Runciman asserted. "Nor will we submit to most favored nations' clauses in commercial treaties being utilized to the detriment of any one of the allied countries. We object to Germany using her resources and commercial relations with us for purposes of aggression as she did in preparation for this war."

America Must Prepare.
Runciman's statement is of the highest importance in view of the forthcoming allied commerce conference in Paris, which he will attend. American traders and manufacturers, he indicated, must prepare for a rigid, though friendly, British commercial competition in neutral markets after the war.

"The coming conference in Paris will approach all these questions with these points in mind. We are all determined to resist Germany, whether we attend to establish political predominance in foreign countries by commercial means. We are actuated by the necessity for defense and disarming, which this war provided of a complete junker policy at home and abroad. It is a lesson none of the allies will ever forget."

"Great Britain has a clean record on this subject. We've never used trade relations for warlike purposes, or for preparation for war. Our free trade is traditional. We have at all times discouraged government assistance or direction of commerce. We have allowed our manufacturers and traders to develop their business relations to wherever they could on their own merits and for purely business reasons."

To Compete Against U. S.
"We have competed against ourselves as much as against foreigners. Our policy in the past has gradually veered from 'laissez faire' to 'laissez passer.' You ask what effect this will have on our commercial relations with America. I reply that we will continue to be good commercial neighbors to the United States, and the American continent. Of course, we will compete against it. (Continued on Fifth Page.)

Cody and Red Chief Converse By Signs
Blackfoot Head's Vocal Greeting Sounds Like Steam Exhaust From Dinky.

William F. Cody (Buffalo Bill) and Mountain Chief, head of the Blackfoot tribe, made "sign talk" in the office of Maj. Gen. Hugh L. Scott, chief of staff of the army, today.

Colonel Cody called to pay his respects to General Scott, whom he had aided in Indian campaigns. The Indian chief has been a frequent visitor at General Scott's office because the general is perhaps the only man in Washington who can converse with him in sign language.

Colonel Cody made a few caustic remarks with his hands as he approached the Indian.

"Blackfoot, howdy," he said. The Indian grunted, touched the top of his head, and shot his hand into the air, mimicking the sound of a steam locomotive.

"You haven't as much hair on the top of your head as you had when I last saw you," then Colonel Cody and Mountain Chief stalked deer, chased the buffalo over the plains again and recalled some old Indian legends, all in sign language.

Colonel Cody was accompanied by "Johnnie" Baker, the crack shot of the old Buffalo Bill show.

Trooper Blinded By Glare of Mexican Sand
EL PASO, Tex., March 21.—Some of the hardships of the Villa pursuit were revealed today when a negro trooper of the Tenth Cavalry, who was with Colonel Dodd, arrived to be treated for blindness. He had been rendered blind by the glare of the Chihuahuas desert.

Five members of the Sixth Infantry and the Engineering Corps, who were in the Columbus division, also arrived at Fort Bliss hospital to be treated for accidental injuries.

"Kill Americans," Order Of Carranza Officer
EL PASO, Tex., March 21.—Letters from Carranza in Cananea, Sonora, reached here today with reports of a Carranza captain who, in a public address to his troops on Friday, in the streets of the Mexican mining town, exhorted them to massacre all Americans.

Governor Miles immediately ordered the captain's arrest. The letters said the speech aroused ill feeling.

DECLARES \$839 IS LEAST FAMILY OF 5 CAN LIVE ON HERE

Postal Clerks' Federation Officially Submits Figures to House Subcommittee.

APPEARS FOR NOLAN BILL

T. S. Kelly, J. D. Machen, and J. L. Rhodes Speak in Behalf of Minimum Wage.

Additional figures showing that it is impossible for a family of five to live properly on the small salaries paid thousands of Government employees who get from \$600 to \$800 a year, were presented to a subcommittee of the House Committee on Labor when it resumed hearings today on the Nolan bill for a minimum wage scale of \$1 per day in the Government service.

A family in which there are three children of school age cannot live here on less than \$829.54 a year, according to figures submitted by Thomas Flaherty, secretary-treasurer of the National Federation of Postal Clerks, who said his table was compiled by E. R. Keim, professor of economics in George Washington University.

Some Items Omitted.
Yesterday Arthur Holder, of the American Federation of Labor, estimated it would require \$76.95 to support a family of five. Mr. Holder, however, omitted several items included in the Keim table, such as newspaper, recreation, and car fare.

Prof. Keim's table, according to Mr. Flaherty, estimates that a family of five must pay rent of \$165 per annum, and the annual food bill will be \$290. Other items were: insurance, \$22.50; clothing, shoes, etc., \$104; doctors and medicines, \$20; fuel and light, \$42; car fare, \$20; furnishings, \$15; newspapers, \$5; recreation and amusements, \$40; miscellaneous, \$10.

Mr. Flaherty told the committee today that substitute letter carriers in post-offices here and elsewhere are woefully underpaid. These carriers, he said, scarcely average \$1 per day. He estimated that many entered the service under a misapprehension because application blanks say these carriers can earn \$50 to \$70 a month.

Chances Passed Up.
"Do not the correspondence schools have something to do with that state of affairs?" asked Congressman Van Dyke.

"Yes, they play up the chances in the Government service," said Mr. Flaherty. The witness read several letters he said he had received from substitute carriers. These men, he said, are barely ahead of starvation.

The department, he said, took the position that it was not worth while raising the pay for substitutes, as there is always a waiting list.

"My God, is there no such thing as human kindness in the hands of persons in a position to make the lives of the lowest a little more happy?" was the plea in one of the letters read to the committee by Mr. Flaherty.

Tragedy of Postal Service.
Mr. Flaherty referred to the hard work a carrier undergoes in acquainting himself with his new duties, such as learning the routes of the city in which he may be located. "This information," he said, "is not worth a dollar to them anywhere else. That is the tragedy of the postal service."

He spoke of the reduction of older carriers to a few cents. These men, he said, were taken from the delivery service and put in the collective service. They thought the lighter work was in recognition of their long labors with the department, but Mr. Flaherty said, they soon ascertained that a reduction in salary went with the new job.

"They were penalized for their long service with the Government," said Mr. Nolan. Mr. Flaherty agreed.

Urges Passage of Nolan Bill.
In presenting the table of Prof. Keim, Mr. Flaherty said there are about 20,000 employees of the postal service throughout the country who are receiving salaries lower than the amount carried in the table. He earnestly recommended passage of the Nolan three-dollar-a-day bill.

Other witnesses heard today in favor of the bill included Thomas S. Kelly, J. D. Johnston, president of the National Brotherhood of Mailmen, and J. L. Rhodes, of the Arlington Experimental Farm.

Railroads Would Arbitrate Mail Pay
Urges That Interstate Commerce Commission Settle Controversy With Postoffice.

Railroads and the Postoffice Department are in a hopeless deadlock in their mail pay controversy, and the only solution is for the Interstate Commerce Commission to arbitrate, Samuel Rea, of the Pennsylvania railroad, today told the Senate Postoffice Committee.

The operation of the parcel post, said L. E. Johnston, president of the Norfolk and Western, had made the whole mail pay question an intricate one of rates, which only the Interstate Commerce Commission could settle fairly to the interests of all users of mails.

U. S. Gunboat Wheeling Off on Secret Mission
Secretary Daniels today declined to reveal the destination of the subpat Wheeling, ordered from New Orleans to "southern waters."

The subpat, North Carol, J. D. Machen, a watchman, and J. L. Rhodes, of the Arlington Experimental Farm.

CAVALRY DASHES SOUTH TO ASSIST IN VILLA BATTLE
Dodd's Troopers in Forced March From Cruces to Re-enforce Carranzistas Who Are Believed to Have Cut Off Bandit Leader's Retreat to Santa Clara.

MEAGRE NEWS FROM BATTLEFIELD
American Force Establishes Base Near Casas Grandes—Three Columns Sent To Attempt To Block Retreat From Namiquipa To the Hills

EL PASO, March 21.—American cavalry squadrons are hastening by forced marches southward to trap Villa before he can reach the Santa Clara mountains.

The bandit chief is still engaged with Carranzistas near Namiquipa, according to all advices reaching here today.

General Gavira, Carranza commandant at Juarez, has received but brief information, but indicates that the Villistas have been cut off from further retreat southward and are being crowded northward in the path of the advancing American squadrons.

Col. George Dodd's cavalry is reported today to be hurrying from Cruces toward Namiquipa to re-enforce Carranza troops under Colonel Cano, engaged in a fierce running fight with the outlaws.

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FOLLOWED HARD RIDE.
Following its record-breaking ride from Hachita, Dodd's cavalry is reported making another forced march to aid the Carranzistas in cutting off the flight of the Villistas.

Encircled by Carranza and American forces, Villa is making a desperate effort to reach the Santa Clara canyon, in the Guerrero mountains, twenty miles east of Namiquipa.

General Gavira, Carranza commandant at Juarez, early today said that he had received no further details than that the Carranza troops and Villa yesterday evening were engaged in a desperate conflict and that American re-enforcements were rushing to the assistance of the Carranza attacking forces.

Gavira sent urgent requests for additional information and replies are momentarily expected in Juarez.

GAVIRA DENIES REPORTS.
Gavira pointed to the battle of Namiquipa in denial of reports that Carranza troops are disposed to let Villa get away, and give him an equal chance with the American army on his trail.

At 8:30 a. m. today General Gavira said he had not been advised of the result of the battle at Namiquipa.

The dispatcher of the Mexican Northwestern railroad, near which the fighting is reported to be taking place, said no word had been received since last night. It is not known whether the wires were cut or the Carranza forces were withholding information.

General Gavira was asked if Villa had been killed or captured and to both answered "no."

Carranza Consul Garcia, of El Paso, visited Gavira's Juarez headquarters to learn the outcome of the battle between Villistas and Carranzistas.

COMMUNICATION WITH FRONT CUT.
Garcia said communication with Namiquipa was cut off. He did not know where the trouble was, but said it was effectively preventing the arrival of news from the battlefield.

The absence of news from the battlefield since Juarez officials late yesterday received the first word of Villa brought at bay, leads to fears that he has cut his way through the armed ring and is temporarily safe.

To trap Villa, if he escaped the central column from Cruces, Brigadier General Pershing has sent cavalry squadrons southward to the Babicora ranch and to Carmon, on either side of Namiquipa.

One of these three columns should be within striking distance of Villa's rear guard within twenty-four or thirty-six hours.

Several aeroplanes with the expedition spent last night on Mexican soil near Ascension. They were within a few hours' flight of the Namiquipa battlefield and may